

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BUJUMB 00727 270942Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-07 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04
H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01
SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-13 /088 W
-----095440 270944Z /10

R 270910Z JUN 77
FM AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6309
INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY KIGALI
AMEMBASSY KINSHASA
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY SEOUL

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUJUMBURA 0727

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PDIP, SK, BY
SUBJECT: CHANCES OF SOUTH KOREAN DIALOGUE WITH BURUNDI

REF: BUJUMBURA 0356

1. AS I WAITED TO BE RECEIVED BY PRESIDENT BAGAZA ON JUNE 23, I NOTICED THE NORTH KOREAN AMBASSADOR LEAVING THE OFFICE. THUS, I STARTED MY CONVERSATION WITH BAGAZA BY ADVERTING TO WHO HAD PRECEDED ME AND BY COMMENTING THAT THIS REMINDED ME THAT MY PREVIOUS TALK WITH BAGAZA ON TRYING TO INDUCE BURUNDI TO AGREE TO TALKS WITH SOUTH KOREAN REPRESENTATIVES HAD BROUGHT NO RESULTS. I SAID IT WAS BEYOND ME WHY BURUNDI REJECTED ANY CONVERSATION WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF THE PART OF KOREA WHICH WAS TWICE AS POPULOUS, MANY TIMES RICHER, AND MUCH MORE DYNAMIC THAN THE NORTH. MOREOVER, IT WAS INCONGRUOUS FOR BURUNDI TO MAINTAIN EXCLUSIVE TIES WITH A NORTH KOREA THAT HAD FORMAL MILITARY ALLIANCES WITH THE USSR AND PRC AT THE SAME TIME THAT BURUNDI CLAIMED TO BE ENTIRELY NON-ALIGNED BETWEEN THE EAST AND WEST.

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2. BAGAZA SAID THAT BURUNDI HAD VERY SATISFACTORY RELATIONS WITH PYONGYANG IN SEVERAL FIELDS, AND IT EVEN RECEIVED "SYMBOLIC" AID FROM NORTH KOREA. WHY SHOULD IT UPSET THESE RELATIONSHIPS? BESIDES, SOUTH KOREA HAD NEVER MADE ANY MOVE TO TALK TO BURUNDI.

3. I TOLD BAGAZA THAT NO ONE WAS TRYING TO DISTURB BURUNDI'S

LINKS TO NORTH KOREA, AND A NUMBER OF COUNTRIES INCLUDIN ZAIRE MAINTAINED TIES TO BOTH. IN ADDITION, SOUTH KOREA HAD MADE OVERTURES TO BURUNDI REPRESENTATIVES ABROAD, IN WASHINGTON, BRUSSELS, AND KINSHASA, BUT BURUNDI HAD REBUFFED THE SOUTH KOREANS EACH TIME. I THOUGHT IT WAS HIGH TIME THAT BURUNDI AT LEAST LISTENED TO SOUTH KOREA'S STORY, BUT FOR THIS TO HAPPEN, BAGAZA WOULD HAVE TO ISSUE AN APPROPRIATE ORDER TO BURUNDIAN DIPLOMATS ABROAD. I ADDED THAT FAR FROM HARMING BURUNDI'S DEALINGS WITH NORTH KOREA, A BURUNDIAN DIALOGUE WITH SEOUL MIGHT SPUR PYONGYANG ON TO OFFER MORE AID. AND WHO COULD TELL, IF BURUNDI INDICATED ITS FRIENDLEINESS TO SOUTH KOREA, AID MIGHT EVENTUALLY BE FORTHCOMING FROM THAT QUARTER AS WELL.

4. BAGAZA MADE NO PROMISES ABOUT KOREA, AND I WILL CONTINUE PRESSING HIM AND HIS FOREIGN MINISTER ON SUITABLE OCCASIONS.
MARK

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Control Number: n/a
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Sent Date: 27-Jun-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Approved on Date:
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